Annual Report

2019 - 2020

Registered Charity: 1120223
Company Limited by Guarantee: 6204415

Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych

CHAIR'S REPORT

Part of the Chair's responsibility is to review all aspects of Menter Iaith Sir Dinbych's work during the past year. Before presenting a report before the Management Board's Directors. The Directors then evaluate our work and activities over the year in an Annual Report which is presented in an Annual Meeting. Our Annual Meetings are usually held at a community centre. However this year, the Covid-19 restrictions have unfortunately affected our usual practice. The Directors and Staff will be meeting virtually over Zoom from their offices or from the comfort of their own home. Can you believe it?!
The pandemic is forcing people from all four corners of the world to break away from the norm and we can't yet be certain where this will lead us in the future.

I would like to thank Menter Iaith Dinbych's staff for providing a summary of their activities for this report. We're very lucky to have an extremely hardworking and supportive volunteer Treasurer. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to the Board's new secretary and wish them all the best in their new post. Thank you very much to both for their invaluable work.

Towards the end of this financial year, the Lockdown was announced. As a result, the Chief Officer had to undertake the unexpected task of ensuring that the staff were ready and prepared to comply with the many restrictions set by the Government. The Chief Officer evaluated the situation and ensured that Menter Iaith Dinbych could continue with their work despite the setbacks. This unexpected task was challenging to say the least but the Chief Officer succeeded extremely well.

Thankfully we did receive some good news this year, which was a real cause for celebration. NVCO deemed Menter Iaith Dinbych deserving of a the Trusted Charity quality mark. It came as no surprise that Menter Iaith Dinbych is administered to a high standard, however there's always room for improvement! The Staff and Board Members were honoured as achieving the quality mark is no easy feat and they had spared no effort in attaining the mark. Again, thank you to the whole team for helping us to raise the bar even higher. We will celebrate as soon as we can. Keep up the good work.

Nia Parry and Buddug Davies were appointed as the Bilingual Communities Project officers from May 2019 until March 2020. They went above and beyond with their work and we were delighted to be able to offer young people, such as Nia and Buddug, the opportunity to develop new skills with us at the beginning of their career. We would like to wish them well for the future.

We should always be striving for more. We've been thinking long and hard about our role and preparing for the future, as well as considering our requirement for improved resources. One of our priorities is to secure additional external investment following our newly awarded quality mark and as a result we hope to to see exciting developments by the Annual General Meeting in 2021!

The 2019-2020 Annual Report is an informative, colourful and wonderful depiction of Menter Iaith Dinbych's administration, financial situation and the varied activities we undertake internally and in the community. I hope that you'll find the time to read this enlightening and interesting representation of Menter Iaith Dinbych's work during a regular year.

We are very grateful to our volunteers for their hard work. We are also grateful for the financial support to help us to continue promoting and strengthening the use of the Welsh language in Denbighshire.

E Alice Jones,
Chair.

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Beth yw Menter Iaith?

What's a Menter Iaith?

Mae 22 Menter yn gweithio yn ein cymunedau dros Gymru

There are 22 Welsh language enterprises working in Wales

yn cefnogi dros 160,000 o bobl o bob oed

supporting over 160,000 people of all ages

i gynyddu a chryfhau'r defnydd o'r Gymraeg yn ein cymunedau.

to increase and strengthen the use of Welsh in our communities.

Yn trefnu gwyliau, clybiau gofal, sesiynau iaith a mwy -

Organising festivals, childcare, language sessions and more -

mae'r fenter yn siop-un-stop ar gyfer yr iaith,

Menter Iaith is a one-stop-shop for the language,

yn ein helpu i fyw, dysgu a mwynhau yn Gymraeg.

helping us live, learn and enjoy in Welsh

Mae'r Mentrau Iaith i bawb.

Mentrau Iaith is for everyone.

I ddarganfod mwy ewch i **mentrauiaith.cymru**

To find out more go to **mentrauiaith.cymru**

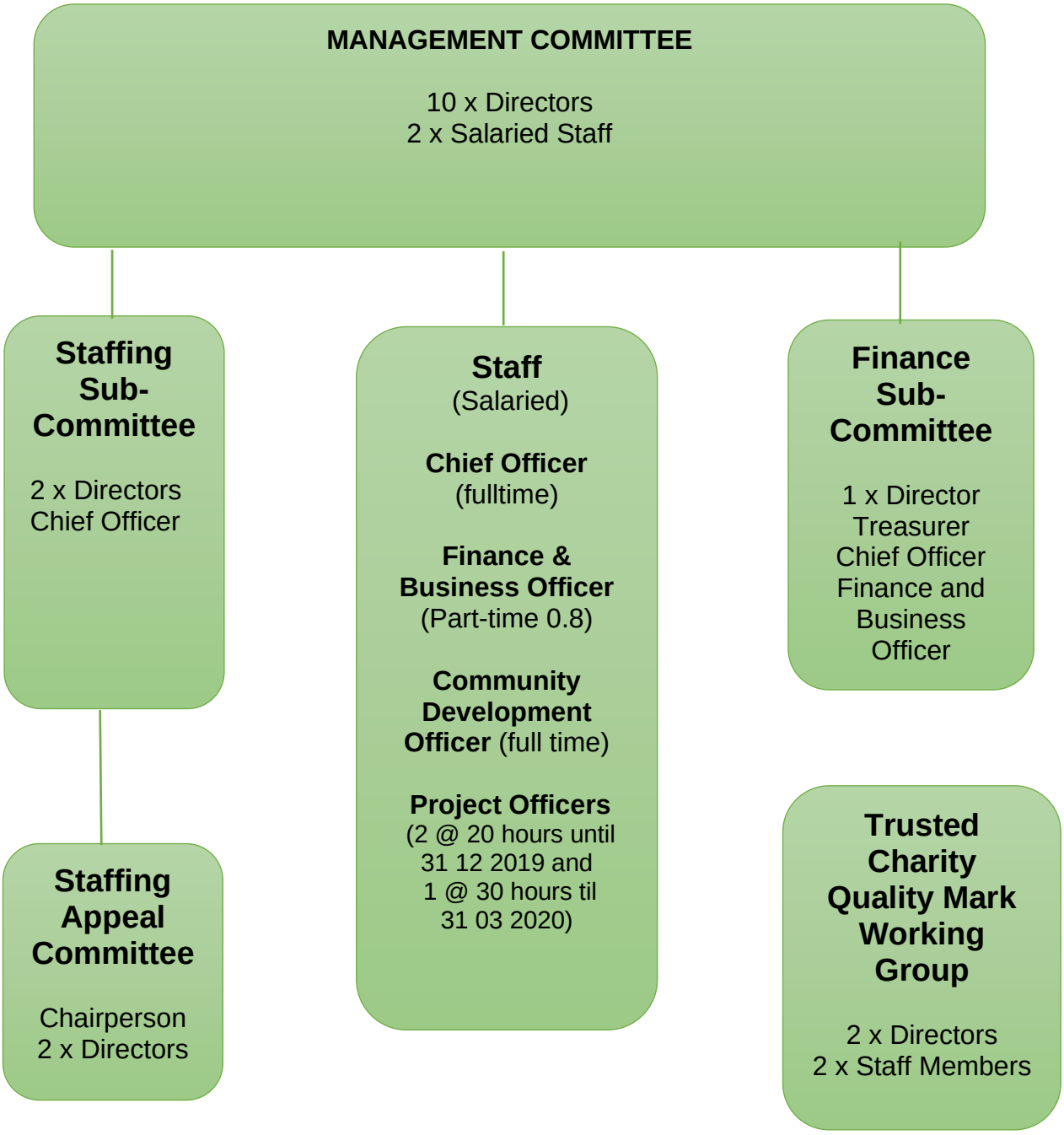
CYMRAEG

MENTER IAITH SIR DDINBYCH

Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych was established in October 2003 when it evolved from the previous Menter Iaith Dinbych-Conwy that existed since 1998.

The Menter is a registered charity since November 11th 2004 and a company limited by guarantee since April 5th 2007. The Menter has a board of experienced, active and supportive directors.

Structure of Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych 2019-2020



DIRECTORS / TRUSTEES

Directors / Trustees	Name:	Representing	Elected:
Chair	Alice Jones	Individual	21/10/2015
Vice-chair	Arwel Roberts	Individual	24/04/2014
Treasurer	Owain Gwyn Morris	Individual	20/10/2011
Secretary	Mared Williams (retired 16/10/19)	Individual	21/10/2015
	Anna Lloyd Edwards	Individual	16/10/2019
	Emrys Wynne	Individual	03/10/2012
	Eleri Llwyd	Individual	14/10/2014
	Gwenan Prysor	Individual	21/10/2015
	Alaw Jones	Individual	19/10/2016
	Bethan Cartwright	Individual	11/10/2017
	Menna Jones	Individual	16/01/2019
Trustee			
	Cllr. Meirick Lloyd Davies	Denbighshire County Council	16/10/2019

STAFF

Chief Officer: Ruth Williams

Ruth has worked for the Menter since September 2013. She manages the Organisation full time from day to day and is responsible for the strategic and marketing work. She is also responsible for some community activities.

Finance and Business Officer: Iorwen Jones

Iorwen has worked for the Menter since April 2004. Iorwen works 30 hours a week, and is responsible for the financial and administrative work and also supports some of our community work.

Community Development Officer: Gwion Tomos-Jones

Gwion has worked full time for the Menter since October 2013. Gwion's main fields of work revolve around providing opportunities for children, young people and families.

Denbighshire's Bilingual Communities Project Officers

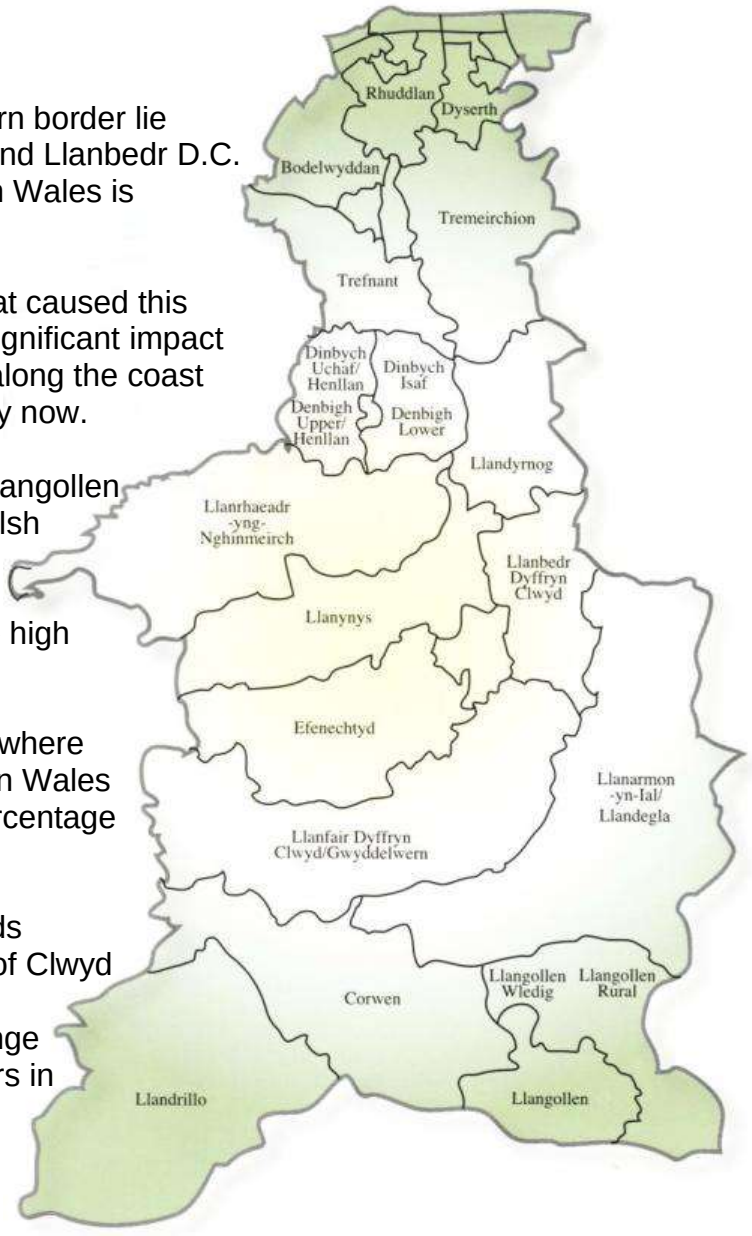
From May 2019, Nia Parry and Buddug Davies were employed (20 hours a week each) as part of a project supported by Cadwyn Clwyd. The project is funded primarily through the Welsh Government's Rural Communities programme 2014-2020, and receives financial support from the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Nia's contract came to an end in December 2019 and Buddug continued working 30 hours a week until the end of March 2020.

Helo Blod's Project Officer

Nia Morris, Helo Blod's project officer, was also employed as part Mentrau Iaith Cymru's scheme through Menter Iaith Conwy. She's responsible for supporting small businesses in Denbighshire and Conwy. Nia works part time at Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych's office.

THE AREA SERVED BY MENTER IAITH DINBYCH

93,734 people live in Denbighshire and according to the 2011 Census 24.6% of the population speak Welsh.



Along the coast and the county's eastern border lie communities such as Prestatyn, Rhyl and Llanbedr D.C. where the percentage of people born in Wales is as low as or lower than 50%.

The pattern of demographic change that caused this (and continues to happen) has had a significant impact on the percentage of Welsh speakers along the coast which is lower, on average than 20% by now.

According to the 2011 census, in the Llangollen area we see that the percentage of Welsh speakers is very low, although neighbouring villages such as Bryneglwys and Llandegla are home to high percentages of Welsh speakers.

South of the A55 lie rural communities where the percentage of the population born in Wales is considerably higher with a higher percentage of Welsh speakers.

This is true of the rural area that extends from the A525 down towards the Vale of Clwyd and towards the boundary of Western Conwy, although this is starting to change now. The percentage of Welsh speakers in this area according to the 1991 census was between 60% and 80%, but by the 2011 census the figure was between 40% and 60%.

We should note that the percentage of Welsh speakers in the neighbouring areas of Bro Aled and Uwchaled increases to over 70% and that these are important to us as many of the population work, receive their education, spend their free time and shop in Denbighshire.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Long-term aims are:

1. Normalise the use of the Welsh language in every aspect of life in Denbighshire.

2. Ensure that opportunities and encouragement is available for non-Welsh speaking residents and incomers to learn the language.

3. Ensure opportunities for native residents to develop their knowledge and use of the Welsh language.

4. Influence on the wide range of social, economical, cultural, and educational activities provided within the county in order to develop them to be thoroughly bilingual or Welsh.

Objectives

i) Assist the voluntary sector to offer bilingual services.

ii) Encourage non-Welsh speakers to adopt a positive attitude towards the language e.g. assimilate incomers and help learners to become fluent and to be part of the Welsh society.

iii) Deliver new activities either independently or by working in partnership with others
- to span between schools and communities
- to complement the Welsh for Adults provision
- to enrich and enliven Welsh life in general

iv) Support voluntary activities that already exist through the medium of Welsh.

v) Encourage children and young people to use the Welsh language and organise activities for them.

vi) Promote the transferring of the Welsh language within the family.

A TASTE OF MENTER IAITH'S WORK IN 2019-2020

In compliance with the conditions of the core grant by Welsh Government, we focused on three main areas, those being:

1. **Children and Young People**
2. **Families**
3. **The Community**

Under those headings we worked towards achieving the following:

- Ensure more children and young people make use of the Welsh language naturally and confidently beyond school hours.

- Ensure more children are being raised bilingually. Either through more Welsh speaking parents transferring the language or non-Welsh speaking parents choosing Welsh medium education for their children.

- Raise the level of awareness of the Welsh language and Welsh culture and increase the number of opportunities to use the Welsh language within the community.

Below is an overview of the type of work the Menter carried out in the community during the year. This is just a taste of the work. Our website and Facebook and Twitter pages provide more detailed information and photos from these activities.

The work consisted of:

- Working in partnership for the benefit of young families

- Promoting the value of the Welsh language to parents

- Activities for children and young people

- Community activities

- Supporting community / voluntary groups

- Workplaces / businesses

- Supporting Governmental campaigns

- Language Forum

- Welsh in Education

- Communicating with the Public

Working in partnership for the benefit of young families

In partnership with family-oriented agencies and organisations (such as Mudiad Meithrin, Cymraeg i Blant, Denbighshire Family Information Service and Canolfan Gerdd Williams Matthias Music) we held activities to raise awareness of social opportunities and the support available for parents to raise their children through the medium of Welsh or bilingually.

Magi Ann's Tour around the county's libraries

St David's Day for Families, Denbigh Town Hall, Denbigh

Camau Cerdd in the Clwyd 2020 fair, Ruthin May 25th

18 activities were organised for families throughout the year, with **419 parents and 579 children attending. Several other events for families** were attended in order to promote the advantages of using the Welsh language for families.

Promoting the advantages of the Welsh language to parents

Menter Iaith Dinbych held activities and stalls in schools and community events to promote the value of the Welsh language and bilingualism. As a result of the various stalls and activities we organised for families, we successfully held **1:1 conversations with over 400 parents** during the year where we promoted the advantages of the Welsh language and bilingualism.

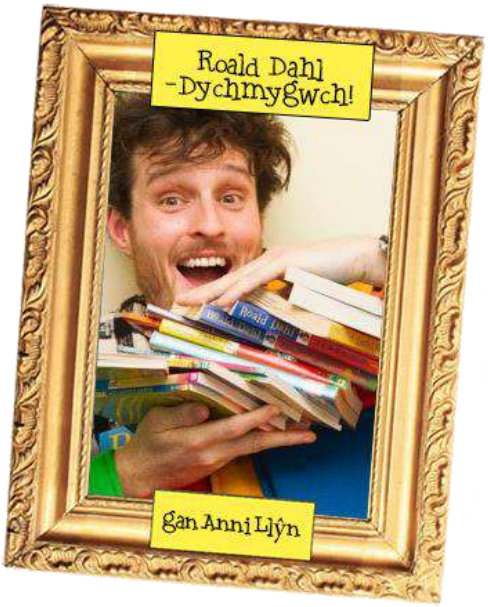
Festival to announce Eisteddfod yr Urdd, Prestatyn, October 2019

Activities through the medium of Welsh for children and young people

25 activities were organised during the course of the year along with several weekly lunchtime clubs for children and young people, who were mostly between the ages of 4 - 16. These activities included art workshops, sports clubs, holiday clubs, workshops relating to the Mewn Cymeriad shows, Minecraft and ukelele workshops. **1155 children and young people** attended these activities. Without a doubt, the feedback we receive continues to highlight the need for more activities that we are unfortunately unable to provide with our current resources.

Creating videos in the Llangollen Food Festival

Halloween Fun in Llandyrnog



455 primary school children enjoyed the Roald Dahl show in Prestatyn, Tremeirchion, Ruthin and Pentrecelyn.

St David's Day Parade in Denbigh – over 500 children took part. As we organised the event in conjunction with the Urdd, we can only claim 250 in terms of numbers – to avoid duplication when presenting our targets to the Government.

Some activities were held on weekends and during school holidays, while others are being held, with thanks to the teachers and headteachers' co-operation, during lunchtimes or after school on school sites.

Work experience / volunteering for young people

Menter Iaith Dinbych offers great opportunities for young people to enjoy new experiences and develop skills such as organising activities, customer service, marketing, creating content and administrative work.

Here's a photo of Leah and Beth helping with the Gai Toms a'r Banditos night – they had the opportunity to take part in an interview and engage with customers.

Community Activities

In partnership with local committees, we organised or supported concerts, gigs, quiz nights, exhibitions and talks.

36 social activities were organised or supported by Menter Iaith Dinbych during the year, with **over 1,795 adults and 259 children and young people attending the activities**. Many more (some thousands) attended community events supported by Menter Iaith Dinbych such as Ruthin Fesitval, Denbigh Mid Summer Festival and Owain Glyndŵr Day Festival in Corwen.

We supported dozens of other activities through the medium of Welsh across the county – many of those to raise funds for the Eisteddfod yr Urdd in 2020 by offering valuable promotional support on the Menter's social networking sites and the Denbighshire Free Press' Welsh page.

Cowbois Rhos Botwnnog still managing to attract 85 audience members despite of storm Dennis, February 2020

'Kate' in the Capel Mawr's vestry, Denbigh, February 2020

Book launch evening for Promenâd y Gwenoliaid in Rhyl

Supporting New Welsh Speakers (adults)

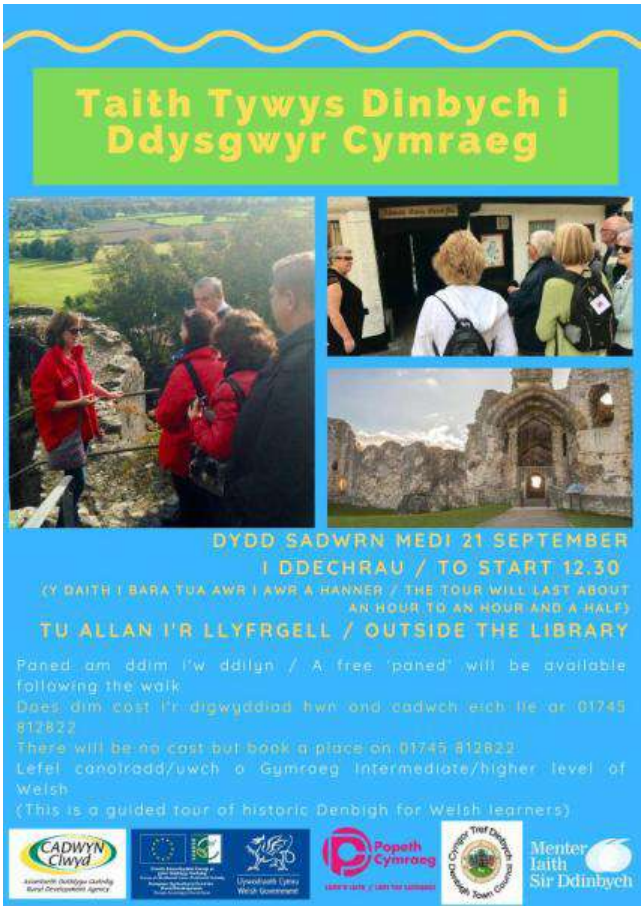
We held 11 Paned a Sgwrs (Cuppa and a Chat) events to support new Welsh speakers (with the aim of introducing new Welsh speakers to fluent Welsh speakers) along with some guided tours. 106 new Welsh speakers took part in these activities and were joined by fluent Welsh speakers who offered their support.

We established two private groups on Facebook, 'Sumae Dinbych' and 'Sumae Rhuthun' – the purpose of these groups is to share relevant information with new Welsh speakers and create a forum where members can share their ideas.

We supported Eisteddfod y Dysgwyr at the beginning of March – it was organised by Popeth Cymraeg and Coleg Cambria (Learn Cymraeg North East Wales).

We share regular updates on courses for our new speakers through our social networks and our activities.

Paned a Sgwrs in Denbigh



Paned a Sgwrs in Llandyrnog

Supporting people living with dementia

All of Menter Iaith Dinbych's staff have now attended Dementia Friend sessions, and we are members of the Dementia Friendly Denbigh Group. We will be sharing relevant information regarding the importance of our mother tongue on our social networks and on the Dementia Friendly Denbigh facebook page. We will also be supporting Capel y Waen's Day Care by helping them to promote their service.

As agreed as a member of the Dementia Friendly Denbigh group, we organised an afternoon with Denbigh's Community Archive Group in the Museum in May 2019.

We have supported third sector organisations and care homes that have enquired regarding ways to improve their Welsh language provision.

Businesses

Once again, the annual St David's Day window display competition was held in Denbigh, Ruthin, Prestatyn and Rhuddlan with St.Asaph also joining the competition for the first time this year. We succeeded to enage with over 100 small businesses to highlight the Welsh language and Welsh culture on the high street.

In St.Asaph, Ysgol Glan Clwyd pupils had the opportunity to work alongside various businesses. A lunchtime activity was held initially where the pupils set to work creating resources for the businesses. Members of the club also helped to judge the competition and award the prizes.

Following the competition, some of the businesses involved have made an effort to increase their use of the Welsh language by contacting us for support with translation and marketing work.

Llangollen Food Festival – supporting businesses, supporting the festival's committee and organising an activity for children and young people.

We continued to work in partnership with Helo Blod Lleol (formerly Cymraeg Byd Busnes) a project run by Mentrau Iaith Cymru.

The project's officer has been working part time out of Menter Iaith Dinbych's office and we had the opportunity to collaborate on a few activities such as Llangollen's Food Festival, Denbighshire Tourism Forum and the St David's Day Window Display competition.

Promoting and supporting national campaigns

We continued to share and re-tweet relevant Welsh Government campaigns on Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych's Facebook and Twitter pages. National campaigns #CmonCymru, Ras yr Iaith, Diwrnod ShwMaeSu'mae Day and Dydd Miwsig Cymru / Welsh Language Music Day in particular received a lot of attention.

The County's Language Forum (Partner Iaith Sir Ddinbych)

Menter Iaith Sir Dinbych has continued to co-ordinate the county lanugage forum and meetings were held quarterly during the year. The forum encourages collaboration and avoiding any duplication as we develop, support and promote the Welsh language in the County. We are very grateful to our partners - in particular the County Council for co-ordinating the language strategy, and to the Urdd, Young Farmers' Clubs, Merched y Wawr, Mudiad Meithrin, Cymraeg i Blant project, Coleg Cambria, Popeth Cymraeg and the Welsh in Education Advisory Team.

Welsh in Education

We continued to attend the Welsh in Education Strategic Group throughout the year where we shared details of Language Charter activities supported in schools, and the attention given in the media to developments in Welsh medium schools.

Lunchtime clubs were set up and / or supported in Ysgol Dinas Brân, Brynhyfryd, Glan Clwyd as well as some visits or collaborative work with Y Llys, Pen Barras, Carreg Emlyn, Pentrecelyn, Bro Cinmeirch, Pant Pastynog, Twm o'r Nant, Gwernant, Henllan and Tremeirchion primary schools during the year.

We also continued to share messages and information regularly with parents regarding the advantages of Welsh medium education and how to support children who receive Welsh medium education.

Communicating with the Public

We continued to raise awareness of Menter Iaith Dinbych's work, the Welsh language, social events and the Welsh language services available by working closely with local newspapers and contributing towards them each week. We also co-ordinated the Denbighshire Free Press' Welsh language page, on a weekly basis.

gyda'ngilydd

Eisiau helpu dysgwyr Cymraeg?

Ewch am dro gyda'r ap newydd sbon Tro!

Cyfle i leisio barn am y cynllun datblygu

Dysgu yn yr awyr agored

gyda'ngilydd

'Flynnig, ffraeth a chyhyrog'

Prosiect uchelgeisiol ar ysbyty hanesyddol

Y Bala i herio Airbus yn fyw ar Sgorio

gyda'ngilydd

Cyhoeddi pedwar aelod newydd

Digon o chwerthin... ac ambell i ddeigryn

Ymchwilio i'r Ail Ryfel

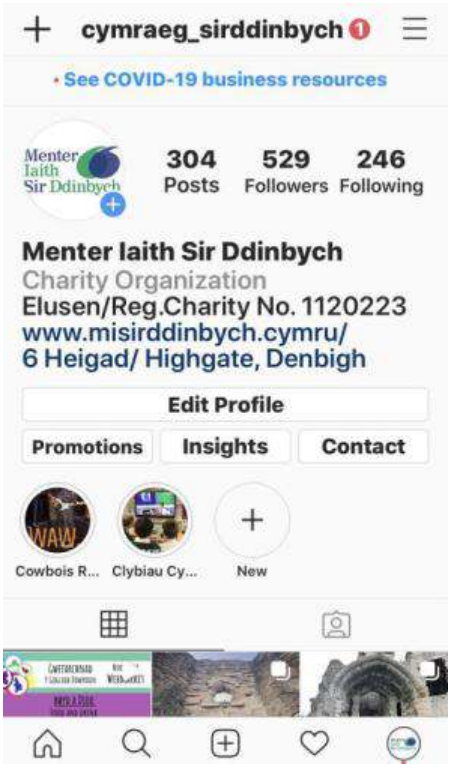
Cynyrch yn cynnwys cyhoeddiad cyllideb ddrafft

Caneuon hen a newydd

Social Networks

We use our Facebook and Twitter pages constantly and have seen a continuous increase in the number of followers, and therefore, an in increase in the influence we have on our audiences.

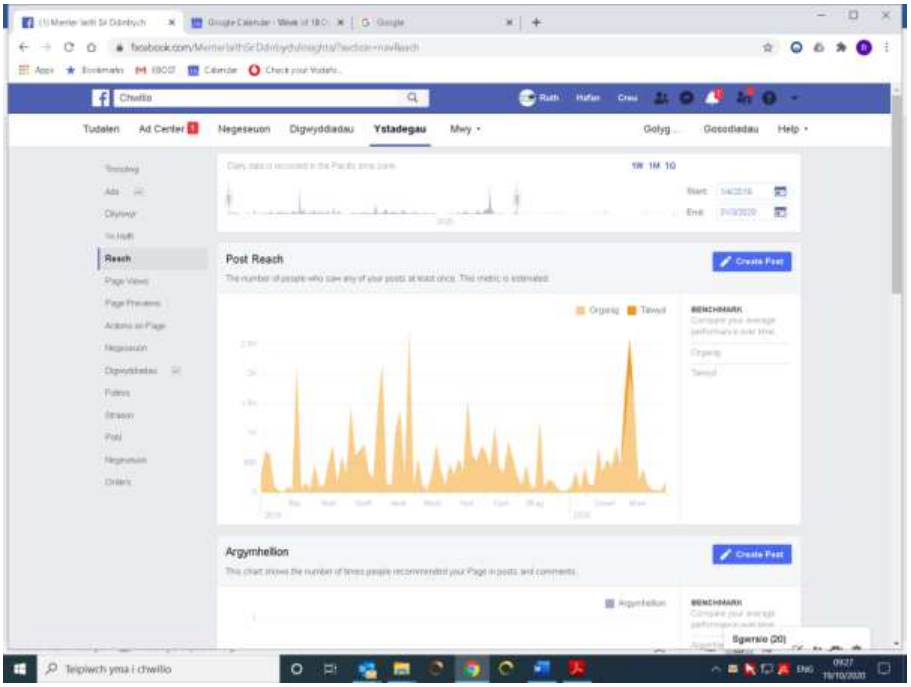
We saw an increase in the number of followers on our social media accounts during the year, with 2,595 following us on Twitter by the end of March 2020, and over 1,404 'likes' on our Facebook page.



An Instagram account was also set up during this period, and by March the 31st 2020, we had 465 followers.

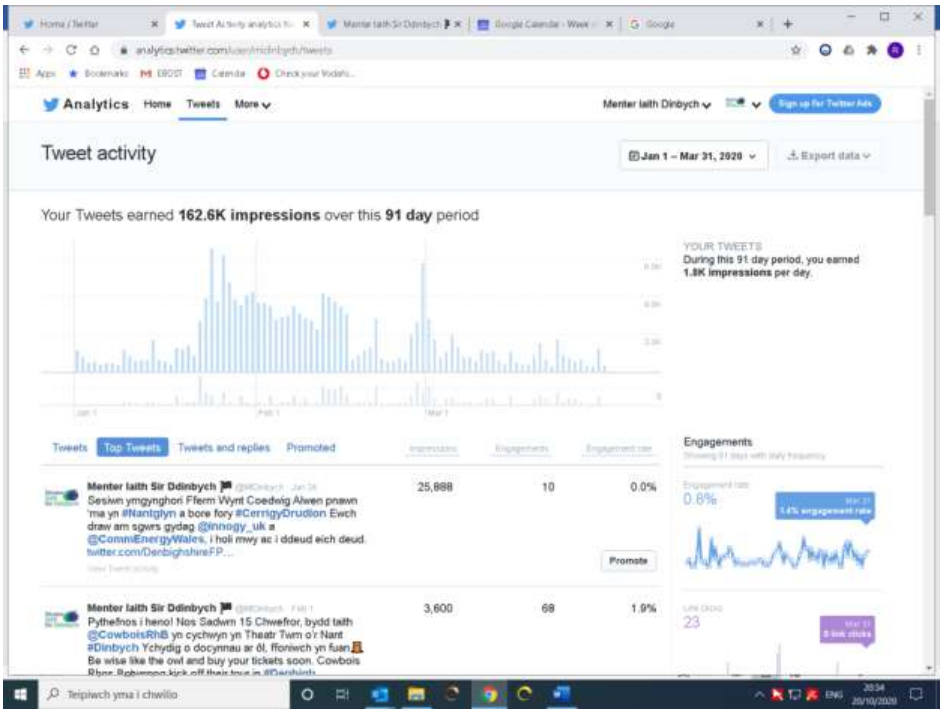
Our Facebook messages' reach between April the 1st 2019 and March the 31st 2020.

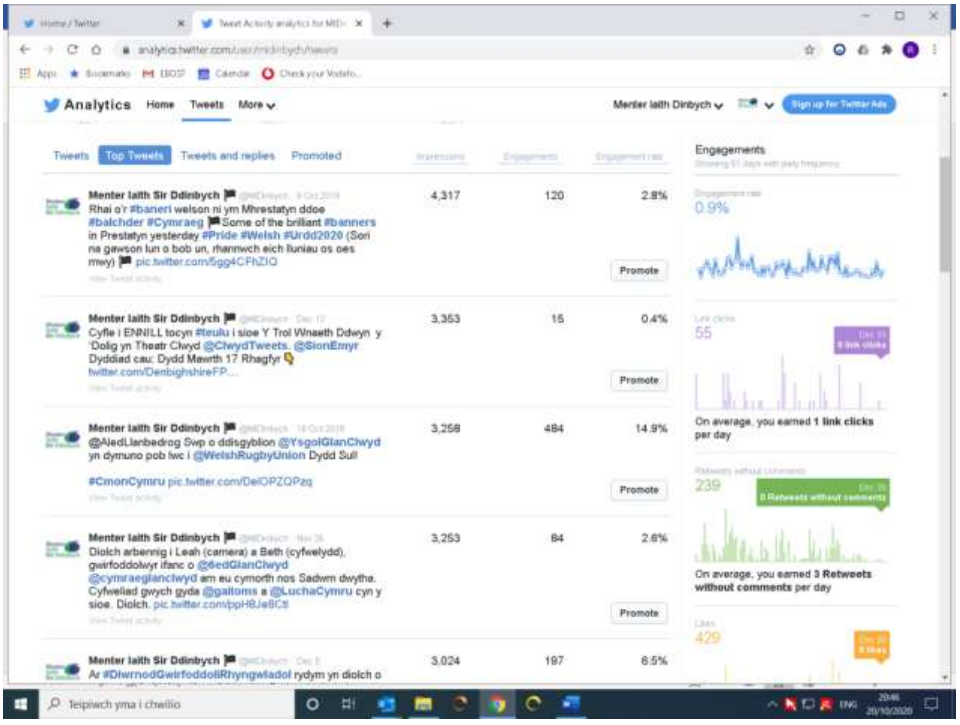
Our messages consistently reach 300-900 of our followers' screens, with some messages reaching over 1000. The most successful message during the period in question reached over 2,780.



Our Twitter messages' reach between April the 1st 2019 and March the 31st 2020.

Our messages consistently reach around 1.8 thousand of our followers' screens each day, with some reaching over 4 thousand and the most successful reaching over 25 thousand.





We have been increasingly developing our skills and understanding of social networks' potential during this period. We will continue to develop our digital marketing skills to increase our audience as well as encourage more of our followers to engage with Menter Iaith Dinbych's messages and work.

DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING ORGANISATION

Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych's main priority during 2019-20 was to continue reviewing our work as a charitable organisation as we progress towards achieving the Trusted Charity Mark (previously PQASSO), which is a national standards scheme for the third sector.

During this period, Menter Iaith Dinbych's staff were very grateful once again to Eleri Llwyd and Gwenan Prysor for their continued support. Both members of the Management Committee worked actively with our staff to review policies, procedures, skills and competency. Systems were put in place to address any gaps or needs that were identified. We are also grateful to Mentrau Iaith Cymru for their support, and to Meirion Davies, Chief Officer at Menter Iaith Conwy, for acting as our mentor.

We began the assessment process in August 2019 and received a satisfactory site visit at the beginning of October. However following internal issues within the NCVO, the organisation responsible for the quality mark, we didn't receive our final report before the end of the financial year as we had hoped. Nevertheless, it was wonderful to receive the final award at the beginning of the 2020-21 financial year. We look forward to build upon Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych's strengths by securing additional external investment to support our work to promote the Welsh language in Denbighshire.

VOLUNTEERS

We highlighted, several times during the year, the value of volunteering in the community. We are very grateful to have received the support of young volunteers, Leah Jones and Beth Evans, who joined us to develop their skills and experiences while supporting Menter Iaith Dinbych's work. We also received the support of volunteers from local committees at our social evenings such as Gwilym Bowen Rhys' gig in Henllan, Gai Toms a'r Banditos, Cowbois Rhos Botwnnog's gig, Diwrnod Dathlu Dewi and some events where help was required to introduce Magi Ann to the children.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all parents, children and young people who contacted us here in Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych throughout the year in search of support or activities. We are proud to be able to serve the residents of Denbighshire by offering some support in terms of their language needs. We are also proud to be able to convince others such as learners, community groups and businesses to give the Welsh language a go and reap the benefits of doing so.

We would also like to thank all volunteers who have given their time freely during this period, to help inform the Menter's work or to offer their support with our activities

Ruth Williams
Chief Officer
October 2020

Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych would like to thank for all their sponsorship during 2019-2020

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Dinbych

Thanks also to the officers and committee of Mentrau Iaith Cymru for their valuable support and co-operation throughout the year